



MUNDIJONG CENTRALS JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB **PLAYER PLACEMENT POLICY**

PLAYER PLACEMENT POLICY

Introduction

Player Placement refers to the selection and allocation of players into teams at the commencement of each season, or where appropriate, during the season.

This policy also covers the temporary placement of players in different age groups where numbers are required, as approved by the Management Committee and Metro South Regional Development Council (MSRDC).

This process takes into account each player's address, age, skill level, development opportunities, and level of participation and enjoyment.

Where teams need to be merged or players re-assigned to meet optimum team numbers, the duly elected Management Committee – including Executives, Coaches Coordinators, and relevant Coaching Staff – will work collaboratively to decide on player placement in line with the principles of this policy. This group is referred to throughout as the *Committee*.

Definitions

Optimum Numbers refer to the ideal size of a team, allowing for fair playing time while providing enough players to cover interchange, injuries, illness, and holidays.

Principles Underlying the Player Placement Policy

To maximise participation and ensure all players have meaningful game time, the club will make every effort to field the number of teams required to reach the optimum number of players per team. Teams may be split or re-arranged to meet these numbers.

***Optimum player numbers per team:**

- **Auskick (Pre-Primary)** – Up to 18 per side
- **Auskick (Year 1)** – Up to 18 players.
- **Auskick (Year 2)** – 15–18 players.
- **Junior (Pups, Year 3)** – 13-17 players.
- **Junior (Year 4)** - 16-20 players
- **Junior (Year 5)** – 16-20 players
- **Junior (Year 6)** – 16-20 players.
- **Youth (Year 7-9)** – 17–21 players.
- **Youth (Year 10)** – 17 – 21 players
- **Youth (Year 11-12)** – 22 – 25 players

*Numbers can change, depending on field numbers determined by WAFC.

Team Allocation Philosophy

The **Team Allocation process** will aim to create teams that share and support similar player requests which include player enjoyment, development, and participation with like minded players. Each player will be placed in an environment that best suits their current ability, confidence, and love of the game, ensuring all teams can compete and grow together.

In the event that divisions are introduced within a competition, teams should be as competitive as possible within their nominated division. Player placement for divisional competitions may be subject to additional criteria, as determined by the Committee.

Players should be placed in teams where they have the best opportunity to develop. Friendships and peer connections will also be considered, as enjoyment and social connection are key reasons children participate in sport.

Where teams within the same age group do not need to merge to meet optimum numbers, team lists will be re-formed each year. Team composition may vary annually to reflect changes in player availability, development, and individual priorities.

Players should not expect to remain with the same group of teammates when merging is necessary to achieve balanced team numbers. Grouping will aim to create a mix of abilities and confidence levels, ensuring diversity and fairness. Consideration may be given to friendships or siblings within the same team where appropriate.

Being placed in a new team should be viewed positively — as an opportunity to experience diversity, form new friendships, and continue personal growth within the club environment.

Playing in Higher Age Groups

Players may be assigned to a higher age group where the following conditions are met:

1. The older age group requires additional players to reach optimum numbers.
2. The player's current age group is not disadvantaged by the move.

3. Parental consent is provided.
4. The player is assessed by the Committee as capable of safely competing in the higher age group and obtains any necessary approvals from the MSRDC.

A player may be considered to play in a higher age group upon submission of a written application to the Committee. Approval will be granted only if the player has previously played in a higher age group, is deemed capable of competing at that level, and if their inclusion would not be to the detriment or confidence of themselves or any existing player within that age group.

Player Registration

No player will be allocated to a team without a completed registration. Registrations must be submitted through the official online system.

Players registered on time will be prioritised for placement before late registrations. The club may impose a registration cut-off date, which will be communicated to all members.

No specific team placement requests from parents or coaches can be guaranteed. Coaching staff must direct unregistered players to the Registrar. Any player or coach who self-allocates to a team without registration will be reassigned according to the principles of this policy.

Exceptions and Appeals

The club acknowledges that, on occasion, unique circumstances may arise where applying the above principles strictly may not serve their intended purpose. In such cases, written appeals may be submitted to the Secretary, outlining individual circumstances and reasons for review.

Committee members with a conflict of interest must declare it and will abstain from voting on related matters. Appeals will be considered by a neutral facilitator (e.g. the Coach Coordinator or Registrar) with experience in club operations but no conflict of interest in the outcome.

All Committee decisions regarding appeals are final, and no further correspondence will be entered into.

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Approved by: Mundijong Centrals Junior Football Club Management Committee